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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE
ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 001406

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NSC FOR WATERS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/13/2017
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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS MINISTER

REF: CAIRO 1097

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR FRANCIS J. RICCIARDONE,
FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

11. (C) SUMMARY: IN A MAY 10 MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR,
MINISTER OF STATE FOR LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MUFEED
SHEHAB NOTED THAT THE GOE PLANS TO MOVE FORWARD ON REVISING
THE CURRENT CHILDREN'S LAW TO INCLUDE TOUGH NEW
ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROVISIONS. SHEHAB WELCOMED CONSULTING WITH
THE EMBASSY'S NEW JUDICIAL ATTACH ON EGYPT'S DRAFT
ANTI-TERROR LAW. ON POLITICAL REFORM, SHEHAB INSISTED THAT
EGYPT IS MOVING FORWARD. END SUMMARY.

12. (C) AMBASSADOR CALLED ON MINISTER OF STATE FOR LEGAL AND
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MUFEED SHEHAB MAY 10 TO INTRODUCE
EMBASSY'S NEW JUSTICE ATTACH AS A NEW RESOURCE FOR
U.S.-EGYPTIAN CONSULTATIONS IN ALL AREAS OF THE RULE OF LAW,
FROM LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENTATION, ON THE FULL RANGE OF
ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST, INCLUDING IMPLEMENTATION OF
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND THE DRAFT ANTI-TERRORISM LAW.
SHEHAB, WHO IS CHAIR OF THE GOE'S DRAFTING COMMITTEE FOR THE
ANTI-TERROR LAW, NOTED THAT TWENTY ARTICLES OF THE LAW HAVE
BEEN COMPLETED TO DATE, "AFTER CAREFUL STUDY OF THE PATRIOT
ACT, BRITISH CT LEGISLATION, AND OTHER RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL
LAWS." HE ASSERTED THAT THE ANTI-TERROR LAW WILL BE VOTED ON
DURING THE NEXT SESSION OF PARLIAMENT (DUE TO COMMENCE IN
MID-NOVEMBER). SHEHAB SAID THAT IT WOULD BE "VERY USEFUL"
TO CONSULT WITH THE EMBASSY'S NEW JUDICIAL ATTACH ON THE
DRAFT ANTI-TERROR LAW. HE REQUESTED AN EARLY MEETING WITH
THE JUDICIAL ATTACH AND OTHER COLLEAGUES OF SHEHAB WHO ARE
WORKING ON THE DRAFT LAW, TO DISCUSS THE DEFINITION OF
TERRORISM, AND UNDERTAKE A COMPARATIVE STUDY WITH U.S. CT
LEGISLATION.

13. (C) AFTER THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THE NECESSITY OF GOE
ACTION IN COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, SHEHAB SAID THAT
HE HAD RECENTLY BEEN APPROACHED BY PM AHMED NAZIF, WHO
REPORTEDLY HAD HOPED THAT A REVISION OF THE 1996 CHILDREN'S
LAW (WHICH IS REPORTED TO CONTAIN TOUGH NEW ANTI-TRAFFICKING
ARTICLES COVERING MINORS) COULD BE PASSED BY PARLIAMENT
BEFORE THE END OF ITS CURRENT SESSION IN JULY (DETAILS ON THE
PROPOSED REVISIONS REPORTED REFTEL). SHEHAB ASSERTED THAT
THERE IS NO TIME TO PASS THE REVISED CHILDREN'S LAW IN THE
CURRENT PARLIAMENTARY SESSION, BUT THAT THE PROCESS COULD BE
STARTED (I.E. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION, CABINET APPROVAL,
PRESENTATION TO THE PARLIAMENT FOR REVIEW AND STUDY) DURING
THE CURRENT SESSION, AND THE ACTUAL LAW PASSED IN THE NEXT
SESSION. HE SAID THAT HE IS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH MOUSHIRA
KHATTAB, CHAIR OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CHILDHOOD AND
MOTHERHOOD, AND A MAJOR PROPONENT OF THE REVISIONS TO THE
CHILDRENS LAW. SHEHAB AGREED WITH THE AMBASSADOR THAT,
PENDING SUCH LEGISLATION, A PRIME MINISTERIAL DECREE FORMING
AN INTER-MINISTERIAL COORDINATING BODY ON TIP IS OVERDUE, AND

PROMISED TO PUSH THE PM TO APPROVE THE MEASURE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

14. (C) ON POLITICAL REFORM, SHEHAB NOTED THAT HE IS "OPTIMISTIC WITH REGARD TO EGYPT PROGRESSING ... WE ARE MOVING FORWARD EACH YEAR, WITH MORE FREEDOMS AND OPPORTUNITIES, AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE RULE OF LAW." OPINING THAT "THERE HAS BEEN LESS POLITICAL IMPROVEMENT THAN WE HAD HOPED DUE TO THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES THAT PLAGUE THIS COUNTRY," SHEHAB SAID, "THUS, THE EGYPTIAN POPULATION IS NOT READY TO JUMP IMMEDIATELY INTO WESTERN-STYLE DEMOCRACY. BUT WE ARE MOVING FORWARD A FEW STEPS EACH YEAR."
RICCIARDONE